
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE
NEWS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230



**Economic
Development
Administration**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, September 2, 2005

**Contact: Matthew Crow
202-482-4085**

**Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez Appoints
George J. Canelos Federal Co-Chair of the Denali Commission**

U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez today announced the appointment of George J. Canelos of Anchorage, Alaska, as Federal Co-chair of the Denali Commission.

The Denali Commission, created by federal law in 1998, is an innovative federal-state partnership designed to provide critical utilities, infrastructure, and economic support throughout Alaska. The Commission provides job training, infrastructure and other economic development services in rural Alaskan communities, with a focus on distressed communities.

“Mr. Canelos’ proven leadership in the field of economic development will be an asset to the Denali Commission as they continue to help Alaska realize its true economic potential,” said Gutierrez. “As Federal Co-chair of the Denali Commission, Mr. Canelos will direct a critical federal effort that provides economic development services in rural Alaskan communities.”

Mr. Canelos currently serves as President and Chief Operating Officer of Koonce Pfeffer Bettis, Inc., a forty-person architecture, landscape architecture, planning and interior design firm located in Anchorage, Alaska. Mr. Canelos capped a 32-year military career as a Brigadier General commanding the Alaska Air National Guard. He also served as Director of the Heritage Land Bank for the Municipality of Anchorage.

The Denali Commission is headed by a Federal Co-chair. The position is nominated by the United States Senate and House of Representatives and appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce.